



Bharadwaj

@BharadwajSpeaks

16 Tweets • 2021-08-29 15:40:23 UTC • [See on Twitter](#)

rattibha.com

Did you know?

The Bamiyan Buddhas are famous throughout the world.

Did you know that the Bamiyan Buddhas had a gold covering until 9th century? They were adorned with precious gems.

Did you know that the Bamiyan Buddhas were built by a HINDU king?

[Thread]



Who built Bamiyan Buddha?

There lies a painting of the king who sponsored the construction of Bamiyan Buddhas inside Bamiyan caves.

The name of the king who built Bamiyan Buddhas was Narendraditya Khingila(6th-7th century CE).

He was the same king who worshiped Gardez Ganesha

In this connection there is an interesting marble image of the Hindu deity Ganesha (7th century AD) from the Kabul Museum (found in Gardez). On its base the name Shahi Khingila is mentioned, written in the north-Indian alphabet.⁵⁹ According to Bivar this marble image links to the painting of a Hephthalite king at the cave of the 53 m Buddha in Bamiyan. In the painting, the adjoining figure of a prince wears a jewel in the form of a bull's head, also seen on marble sculptures related to the Ganesha image.⁶⁰

Khingila consecrated a temple for Ganesha in Gardez, Afghanistan.

The temple has not survived.

However, the Ganesha image has been moved out of Gardez and is now at Pir Rattan temple, Kabul (the same temple whose priest is Pandit Rajesh Kumar, the last Hindu of Afghanistan)





When Xuanzang visited Bamiyan (c. 629 CE), the Buddhas were standing in full glory.

Xuanzang describes the larger standing Buddha as follows

-

"It is 140-150 meters high. It is of a dazzling gold color. It is resplendent with ornamentations of precious substances"

To the north-east of the royal city, on the side of the mountain, there is a stone statue of the standing Buddha. It is 140-50 feet high, of a dazzling gold colour and resplendent with ornamentation of precious substances. To the east of it is a monastery built by an earlier king of the country. East of this is a standing image of Shakyamuni Buddha, more than 100 feet high, made of brass, the pieces of which have been cast separately and then assembled to make up the statue.

During this period, the clothes of Buddha were very brightly colored. The larger buddha was clothed in red and the smaller Buddha in white.

And this coloring survived until recently.

This is why Muslims named larger Buddha as "Surkh But"(red idol) and the smaller as "Khing But"



Bamiyan Buddhas once glowed in red, white and blue: say researchers

<https://www.tum.de/en/about-tum/news/press-releases/details/32293>

Dipankara Buddha from Mes Aynak, Afghanistan

This image would give us an idea as to how the Bamiyan Buddha may have looked like before it was damaged by invaders



However, there were originally three giant Buddhas in Bamiyan.

The third, reclining Buddha was largest of all. It was 1000 feet long.

Xuanzang says "Two li to the east of the city in a monastery, there is a lying statue of Buddha entering Nirvana, more than 1000 feet long"

What happened to the third Buddha?

This seems to be Parinirvana Buddha. He is depicted in a lying position. Consider this image of Buddha from Ajina Tepe in Tajikistan(Now in Dushanbe Museum).

The third Buddha of Bamiyan would have been similar in style but it was much larger





The third Buddha could have been destroyed by Islamic iconoclasts because a reclining Buddha is easier to destroy than a standing Buddha.

But it is also possible that the third Buddha is still hidden in a secret spot somewhere in Bamiyan

In this context, it must be mentioned that there is a statue of Buddha that still stands in Kakrak, Afghanistan just beside Bamiyan.

For some reason, it has not come to the notice of Taliban (as yet)



According to Xuanzang, the ruler of the Bamiyan was a kshatriya.

Bamiyan was first captured by Islamic armies in 871. And then there were incessant attacks on the Buddhas.

Taliban only dealt final blow. Their predecessors tried to destroy Bamiyan Buddhas for 1200 years

The Ṣaffārid ruler Ya'qūb ibn Layth captured Bamiyan in 871 CE.

He destroyed several idols. But it was not easy to destroy Bamiyan Buddha.

The Bamiyan Buddhas were defaced by him





a alamy stock photo

A491BB
www.alamy.com

A very important thing needs to be said.

There was no "Afghanistan" during those days.

In fact, the early Muslim scholars considered Bamiyan as a part of India!

For example, the 10th century Arabic Scholar Al Nadim wrote that Bamiyan was a "frontier of India"

"Ascetics and devotees occupy Bamiyan. In Bamiyan, there are idols of Gold adorned with precious stones"

offer themselves, but it is Allah who knows.

They have a building at Bāmiyān¹⁴ on the frontiers of India, where it borders on Sijistān. Ya'qūb ibn al-Layth reached this locality when he sought to invade India. The idols which were sent to the City of Peace [Baghdād] from that locality of Bāmiyān were transported at the time of its invasion. Ascetics and devotees occupy this great building. In it there are idols of gold adorned with precious stones, the number of which is unknown and to which no praise or description can do justice. The people of India go there on pilgrimages by land and sea from the furthest town (regions) of their country.

Al Nadim also mentioned that people used to make pilgrimage to Bamiyan from all parts of India

offer themselves, but it is Allah who knows.

They have a building at Bāmiyān¹⁴ on the frontiers of India, where it borders on Sijistān. Ya'qūb ibn al-Layth reached this locality when he sought to invade India. The idols which were sent to the City of Peace [Baghdād] from that locality of Bāmiyān were transported at the time of its invasion. Ascetics and devotees occupy this great building. In it there are idols of gold adorned with precious stones, the number of which is unknown and to which no praise or description can do justice. The people of India go there on pilgrimages by land and sea from the furthest town (regions) of their country.

The contents of these pages, including all images, videos, attachments and external links published (collectively referred to as "this publication"), were created at the request of a user (s) from Twitter. Rattibha provides an automated service, without human intervention, to copy the contents of tweets from Twitter and publish them in an article style, and create PDF pages that can be printed and shared, at the request of Twitter user (s). Please note that the views and all contents in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of Rattibha. Rattibha assumes no responsibility for any damage or breaches of any law resulting from the contents of this publication.